CLAIMS

1. Use of compounds having general formula (I):

- 5 wherein:
 - A represents the bibasic ion of an organic acid which can have the meanings (A_1) (A_8) ;
 - Cu represents the copper 2+ ion;
- (A_1) (A_8) respectively represent the following car-10 boxylic acids:

 (A_1) :

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wherein:

- R_1 and R_2 , the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom; a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C_2 - C_6 alkenyl or C_2 - C_6 haloalkenyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl group, optionally substituted; a C_1 - C_6 alkoxyl or C_1 - C_6 haloalkoxyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C_1 - C_6 haloalkylthio group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C_3 - C_6 cycloalkoxyl group, optionally substituted; a

stituted; an aryl group optionally substituted or a heteroaryl group optionally substituted; a heterocyclic group optionally substituted; $(A_2):$

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- R₂ has the meanings defined above;
- Q represents a hydrogen atom; a C₁-C₆ alkyl or C₁-C₆ haloalkyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a cyano group; a C₁-C₆ alkylcarbonyl or C₁-C₆ haloalkylcarbonyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C₁-C₆ alkoxycarbonyl, linear or branched, optionally substituted; an aminocarbonyl group; a C₁-C₆ alkylaminocarbonyl group; a C₂-C₁₂ dialkylaminocarbonyl group;
- X represents a hydrogen atom or a halogen atom; a hydroxyl group; a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C_1 - C_6 alkoxyl or C_1 - C_6 haloalkoxyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a cyano group; a nitro group; an amine group; a C_1 - C_6 alkylamine group; a C_2 - C_{12} dial-

kylamine group; a C_1 - C_6 linear or branched thioalkyl group, possibly substituted; a C_1 - C_6 linear or branched halothioalkyl group, possibly substituted; a C_1 - C_6 linear or branched alkylsulfinyl group, possibly substituted; a C_1 - C_6 linear or branched alkylsulfonyl group, possibly substituted; substituted;

- n is a number ranging from 1 to 4; (A_3) :

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$$W = (CH_2)_x - COOH$$
 $(CH_2)_Y - COOH$

wherein:

- W represents an oxygen atom; a C₁-C₆ alkylimine group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; an arylimine group optionally substituted; a hetero-arylimine group optionally substituted; a C₁-C₆ alkoxyimine group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; an aryloxyimine group optionally substituted;
- x and y, the same or different, are a number ranging 20 from 0 to 4;

 (A_4) :

$$(CH_2)_X$$
— $COOH$
 R_3O — $(CH_2)_y$ — $COOH$

R₃ represents a C_1 - C_6 alkyl or C_1 - C_6 haloalkyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl group, optionally substituted; an aryl group, optionally substituted; a heteroaryl group, optionally substituted;

- x and y, the same or different, are a number ranging from 0 to 4;

 (A_5) :

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wherein:

- R₄ represents a C₁-C₆ alkyl or C₁-C₆ haloalkyl group,
15 linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl group, optionally substituted; an aryl group, optionally substituted; a heteroaryl group, optionally substituted;

 (A_6) :

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Q, X and n have the same meanings defined above; (A_7) :

$$R_5$$
 (CH₂)_x—COOH
 R_6 (CH₂)_v—COOH

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wherein:

Rs and R6, the same or different, represent a hydrogen atom; a halogen atom; a C₁-C₆ alkyl or C₁-C₆ haloalkyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C2-C₆ alkenyl or C₂-C₆ haloalkenyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C2-C6 alkinyl or C2-C6 haloalkinyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C₃-C₆ cycloalkyl group, optionally substituted; a C₁-C₆ alkoxyl or C₁-C₆ haloalkoxyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C1-C6 alkylthio or C1-C₆ haloalkylthio group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C3-C6 cycloalkoxyl group, optionally substituted; a C₁-C₆ alkylamine group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C2-C12 dialkylamine group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; a C1-C6 alkylcarbonylamine group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; an arylcarbonylamine group, optionally substituted; an aryl group, optionally substituted; a heteroaryl group, optionally substituted; a heterocyclic group, optionally substituted;

- R₅ and R₆ can jointly form a C₁-C₆ cycle;
- x and y, the same or different, are a number ranging from 0 to 4 excluding cases wherein x and y are a number ranging from 0 to 2 and R_5 and R_6 are both a hydrogen atom;

 (A_8) :

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10 wherein

X and n have the same meanings described above excluding salicylic acid;

alone or in a mixture, for the control of bacterial and fungal phytopathogens on vegetables or parts thereof.

- 15 2. The use according to claim 1, characterized in that the compounds having general formula (I) are isomeric mixtures in any proportion or single isomers.
 - 3. The use according to claim 1, characterized in that the compounds having general formula (I) are present in hydrated form by the coordination of any number of water molecules.
 - 4. The use according to claim 1, characterized in that the compounds having general formula (I) coordinate further metal cations inside their structure.
- 25 5. The use according to claim 1, characterized in that

the compounds having general formula (I) are in the form of mixed salts.

6. The use according to claim 1, characterized in that the compounds having general formula (I) are selected from:

- copper (II) salt of 4-chlorobenzylidenemalonic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylidene
 malonic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3,4-dimethoxybenzylidene malonic
 acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-fluorobenzylidenemalonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-trifluoromethylbenzylidene
 malonic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 4-dimethylaminobenzylidene malo nic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2,4-dichlorobenzylidene malonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-bromobenzylidene malonic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylidene
 malonic acid monomethyl ester;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylidene
 malonic acid monoethyl ester;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-cyano-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propenoic acid;
- 25 copper (II) salt of 2-acety1-3-(4-hydroxy-3-

methoxyphenyl)propenoic acid;

- copper (II) salt of 2-aminocarbonyl-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propenoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2 methoxycarbonyl-2-butenoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-hydroxycinnamic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-hydroxycinnamic acid;
- 10 copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxycinnamic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-ketoglutaric acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-methoxy-2-pentendioic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(2-hydroxy-phenyl)propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(4-trifluoromethylphenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(4-hydroxy 3-methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl) propanoic acid;
- 25 copper (II) salt of 3-amino-3-(4-hydroxy-3-

- methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-cyano-3-(4hydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-cyano-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-methoxysuccinic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-ethoxysuccinic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-(2-furyl)-2-carboxypropenoic
 acid;
- 10 copper (II) salt of 3-(2-thiazolyl)-2-carboxypropenoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-benzylidene-2-carboxypropenoic
 acid;
- copper (II) salt of 1,1-cyclopropane dicarboxylic
 acid;
 - copper (II) salt of diallylmalonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of ethylphenyl malonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of bis(2-cyanoethyl) malonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of N-morpholinemalonic acid;
- 20 copper (II) salt of N-benzyloxyiminomalonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-hydroxybenzoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxybenzoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 5-chloro-2-hydroxybenzoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 5-bromo-2-hydroxybenzoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 2-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzoic acid;

- copper (II) salt of 2-hydroxy-5-methoxybenzoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 2-hydroxy-3-methylbenzoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3,5-dimethoxy-4-hydroxybenzoic
 acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3,5-dichloro-4-hydroxybenzoic
 acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3,5-dibromo-4-hydroxybenzoic
 acid;
- - copper (II) salt of 3-chloro-4-hydroxybenzoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2,3-dihydroxybenzoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2,6-dihydroxybenzoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid.
 - Compounds having general formula (I'):

A' · Cu

wherein:

- 20 A' represents the bibasic ion of an organic acid which can have the meanings $(A'_1) (A'_7)$;
 - Cu represents the copper 2+ ion;
 - (A'_1) - (A'_7) respectively represent the following carboxylic acids:
- 25 (A'₁):

5 wherein:

- R'1 represents an aryl group optionally substituted;

- R'₂ represents a hydrogen atom;

• (A'₂):

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wherein:

- X' represents a hydrogen or halogen atom; a hydroxyl group; a C₁-C₆ alkoxyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted;
 - n' can have the value of 1 or 2;
 - ${\rm R'}_{\,2}$ represents a hydrogen atom;
- 20 Q' represents a hydrogen atom; a C₁-C₆ alkoxy carbonyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; an acetyl group; a cyano group;

wherein:

- W' represents an oxygen atom;

- x' and y' both have the value of 1;

• (A'₄):

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$$(CH_2)_{X'}$$
— $COOH$
 R'_3O — $(CH_2)_{Y'}$ — $COOH$

wherein:

10 - R'₃ represents a C₁-C₃ alkyl group, linear or branched;

- x' is equal to 1 and y' is equal to 0;

• (A'₅):

R'₄ COOH

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wherein:

- R'4 represents an aryl group, optionally substituted;

• (A'₆):

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- X' represents a hydrogen or halogen atom; a hydroxyl group; a C_1 - C_6 alkoxyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted;
- n' can have the value of 1 or 2;
- 5 Q' represents a hydrogen atom; a C₁-C₆ alkoxy carbonyl group, linear or branched, optionally substituted; an acetyl group; a cyano group;
 - (A'₇):

 R'_5 $(CH_2)_{x'}$ — COOH R'_6 $(CH_2)_{y'}$ — COOH

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- R'₅ represents a C₁-C₆ alkoxyl group, linear or branched;
- 15 R'₆ represents a hydrogen atom;
 - x' is equal to 0 and y' is equal to 1.
 - 8. The compounds according to claim 7, characterized in that they are selected from:
 - copper (II) salt of 4-chlorobenzylidenemalonic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylidene malonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3,4-dimethoxybenzylidene malonicacid;
- copper (II) salt of 4-fluorobenzylidene malonic
 acid;

copper (II) salt of 4-trifluoromethylbenzylidene
 malonic acid;

- copper (II) salt of 4-dimethylaminobenzylidene malonic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 2,4-dichlorobenzylidene malonic
 acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-bromobenzylidene malonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylidene
 malonic acid monomethyl ester;
- copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxybenzylidene malonic acid monoethyl ester;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-cyano-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propenoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 2-acetyl-3-(4-hydroxy-3 methoxyphenyl)propenoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-aminocarbonyl-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propenoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)-2-methoxycarbonyl-2-butenoic acid;
- 20 copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxy-3-methoxycinnamic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-hydroxycinnamic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-hydroxycinnamic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 4-hydroxycinnamic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-ketoglutaric acid;

- copper (II) salt of 3-methoxy-2-pentendioic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(4-chlorophenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(2-hydroxy-phenyl)propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(4-trifluoro methyl phenyl)propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-carboxy-3-(3,4-dimethoxyphenyl) propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-3-(2-hydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-amino-3-(4-hydroxy-3methoxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-cyano-3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)propanoic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-amino-2-cyano-3-(4-hydroxy-3-methoxy phenyl)propanoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 2-methoxysuccinic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 2-ethoxysuccinic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of 3-(2-furyl)-2-carboxypropenoic acid;
- copper (II) salt of 3-(2-thiazolyl)-2 carboxypropenoic acid;

 copper (II) salt of 3-benzylidene-2-carboxypropenoic acid;

- copper (II) salt of diallylmalonic acid;
- copper (II) salt of ethylphenyn malonic acid;
- 5 copper (II) salt of bis(2-cyanoethyl) malonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of N-morpholinemalonic acid;
 - copper (II) salt of N-benzyloxyimino malonic acid.
- 9. The process for the preparation of compounds having general formula (I) according to any of the claims

 10 1-8, characterized in that it comprises a reaction according to the reaction scheme A:

Scheme A

$$A \xrightarrow{1) \text{ Base}} A \text{ Cu}$$

$$2) \text{ CuX}_2$$

$$(II) \qquad (III) \qquad (I)$$

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wherein A has the same meanings defined above and z has the value of 1 or 2.

- 10. Fungicidal compositions containing, as active principle, one or more compounds having general formula (I) according to one of the claims 1-8.
- 11. The compositions according to claim 10, comprising other active principles compatible with the compounds having general formula (I), such as other fungicides, phyto-regulators, antibiotics, herbicides, insecticides, fertilizers.

- 12. The compositions according to claim 10 or 11, characterized in that the concentration of the active principles varies from 0.1% to 98%, preferably from 0.5% to 90%.
- 5 13. Use of the fungicidal compositions according to any of the claims 10-12 for the control of phytopathogen fungi.
 - 14. The use according to any of the claims 1-6 or 13, characterized in that the phytopathogens are: Plasmopara
- viticola on vines; Phytophthora spp. on vegetables;

 Pyricularia oryzae on rice; Venturia inaequalis on apples; Peronospora tabacina on tobacco; Pseudoperonospora cubensis. on cucurbitaceous products; Bremia on salads, spinach; Alternaria spp. on tomatoes, potatoes.
- 15. A method for the control of phytopathogen fungi in agricultural crops by the application of the compounds having general formula (I) according to one of the claims 1-8 or by the application of a fungicidal composition according to one of the claims 10-12.
- 20 16. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the quantity of compound to be applied varies from 10 g to 5 kg per hectare.
 - 17. The method according to claim 15, characterized in that the application takes place on all parts of the plant, for example on the leaves, stems, branches and

roots, or on the seeds themselves before being planted, or on the ground in which the plant grows.

18. Use of the compounds having general formula (I) according to one of the claims 1-8 or of a fungicidal composition according to one of the claims 10-12 for the control of fungal phytopathogens on non-living substrates, such as plastics, metals, textile fibers, glass, wood, paper, foams, bricks.

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